



Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

June 19, 2015



IREF's Family Education Department (FED) brings Classic Cars to IREF:

The FED goal is to reconnect incarcerated fathers with their children in a safe and positive environment manifested in an Inaugural Father Son Classic Car and Bike Show on Saturday, June 12, 2015. Members of the Unchained Gang Ministry, along with several Indianapolis area car club members, paraded their vehicles onto IREF grounds. Once parked on display, father and son teams judged each vehicle, picking the best in show, first, second, and third place winners. Winners were presented with trophies and car plates embossed with the IREF name.

Other activities included games, a cookout and BBQ spare ribs, burgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips, cookies, and drinks provided by Pastor Benny Polin and the Progressive Baptist Church family, and other local neighboring churches.

SOUTH BEND RE-ENTRY ANNOUNCES ANOTHER GREAT PROMOTION!

The South Bend Community Re-entry Center (SBCRC) congratulates Jon White on his promotion to Correctional Sergeant. Mr. White began his career with the department in September 2010 at South Bend Juvenile. He has performed most duties within the facility and has been an integral part of the transition of South Bend Community Re-Entry Center into a high performance team of correctional professionals. Sergeant White has an exceptional level of integrity and is one of this department's rising stars. "It is great to see Sergeant White grow as a professional and he has proven he is ready for the next level," said SBCRC Superintendent Charles Bowen.



EDINBURGH OFFENDERS PERFORM LIFESAVING MEASURES: Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and Chief of Staff Randy Koester visited Edinburgh Correctional Facility to honor offender Mark Goff and Doug Martin for their heroic actions while on work crew 16. The offenders found their non-departmental crew supervisor, Chuck Buchanan, lying on the ground unresponsive and without a pulse. They notified the proper authorities and offender Martin began CPR on Mr. Buchanan. Mr.

Buchanan was responsive when EMS arrived to transport him to the hospital. Commissioner Lemmon presented the offenders with letters of accommodation for their quick response that possibly saved Mr. Buchanan's life.

ISP PLUS UNIT GIVES BACK TO GARY INDIANA COMMUNITY: Superintendent Ron Neal announced with great pleasure the donation by ISP's P.L.U.S. Program to "The Sojourner Truth House" located in Gary, IN. The donation consisted of a check for \$500. The Sojourner Truth House offers [day-shelter services](#) for women in need



WVCF STAFF, TERRE HAUTE AND SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF INDIANA

TEAM UP ONCE AGAIN! The just-completed Special Olympics Indiana Summer Games was a huge success again this year! Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) staff did double duty this year, taking part in the Torch Run, which launched the games, and by volunteering to staff the Bocce Ball courts on the ISU campus. Superintendent Richard Brown led the Wabash Torch Run Team in Sullivan County. Special Olympics Athlete Katlin also ran with the Wabash crew. She's pictured receiving a welcoming hand off of the Olympic Torch from Sullivan

Mayor Clint Lamb. She ran at Princeton, Vincennes and Sullivan!



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IDOC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



Known as "Ms. Betty," by those who know her by name or "That Nice Lady!" by those who don't, eighteen year veteran Betty McCullough makes the job of custody officer look easy. "I wish she would write a book," confided one of her co-workers. "I mean is it the power of her smile? Is it her tone of voice?" Another officer chimed in "Do you think it's because she's a Southern Belle? You do know she's from Mobile, Alabama, don't you?"

I shook my head 'no' in response.

"Anyway, if she tells you, please, please let us know." I could tell that this staffer's desire to know Betty's secret was so overwhelming that she was on the verge of tears. I promised the grateful employee that I would find out if I could.

When asked what drew Ms. Betty to a career at IDOC, the married mother of two and grandmother of two stated that job security was her primary motivation. After a just moment's hesitation, she added, "And I love the people I work with. The folks here at the Correctional Industrial Facility are like a second family to me."

We talked for some time as we toured the facility and I noticed that not only did she have the respect of her peers, the offenders seemed to share the same feelings as well. During our conversation, I discovered her 'fun fact'. She loves to swim and hang out at the beach. And while the nearest beach is over one hundred miles north of our current location, her enthusiasm is not dampened in the least.

Officer McCullough told me that if she was Commissioner for a day she'd give everyone a raise, which made a few suspected eavesdroppers whoop with joy. Taking the hint we moved further away to continue our conversation without an audience. She reminisced on the day she received Officer of the Month. "Best. Day. Ever." She said with a laugh.

As we wrapped up our interview she expected that in five years she would be retired which would allow her to spend more time with her family...and preparing her world famous Turkey and Dressing...a recipe so good it would make you want to celebrate Thanksgiving every single day.

As we wrapped up our interview, she offered this advice to those thinking about a career with the IDOC, "You need to have an open mind as every day is new and exciting. Which is why my personal philosophy is, 'Everything changes so embrace the change.'" **HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND EVERYONE!**



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